Washington 19 Augt 1850

Jas C Booth Esq
care of Faber & Bierwirth NY
Paris

I rec'd your letter of the 17th inst and soon after one from Mr McCulloch saying he was sick and asking me to call to see him. I went up when he showed me your letter of the 15th inst addressed to his son in Princeton in which you say you would consult me before disclosing your invention. I told Mr McC that I should encourage a cooperation of his son with you if his plan for refining approximated in a reasonable degree to yours in economy & availability; but that as there was no contract with you I thought it better just now that you should keep your invention secret. He told me that his son has not taken out a Patent but has only filed a Caveat. This course in my mind would make it more important that your plan should not be divulged, for as the 12th Sec of the act of 1836 allows a person who files a Caveat further time "to mature" his improvement it would give an opportunity to bring in some valuable addition suggested by your method, & perhaps eventually defeat the invention entirely. Mr McC has directed a Patent to be taken in England, & as the law there allows a patent to issue to the party who first introduces an improvement, yours if known might be carried there and used to the profit of some else

I told him that I thought I could, if we could get your plan, or your plan with that of his son embraced in it adopted without having any new law for it, but he doubted it very much, as he considers Dr Patterson an impracticable man on the score of conviction as to any new method. I differed from him but did not point out how it would or could be done so you need not say how. I wished to have whatever is to be done — done in your name, & if his son is to be interested that he should come in under your application

I told him I had not rec'd a letter from you in answer to my last

but that when I did so relative to his own plan I would see
him on the subject. He told me that his son refined with zinc
now if this is so, how is it possible to reduce the hardness of the gold
without incurring an expense in separating the zinc, equal to that
of the first part of the process of refining. I believe it cannot
be done & therefore the great desideratum economy is not gained
We are however desirous of bringing your plan into early
use & profit, and therefore if his has any features that may
either aid your method or conflict with it, of course it
would be politic on both sides that instead of conflict there
should be cooperation. I want you however to preserve
the authorship & control of the improvement & stipulate that
all applications shall be made & conducted in your name

Your contract apart from this can secure whatever interest
you may agree that he shall have. I think under all the
circumstances & when they are explained to Mr R Patterson
he will be content to receive 5 profit for his aid. and Mr McC
should be satisfied with one profit. I think I would
not disclose to Mr McC how you intend to proceed in your
application or your aid in conference with me upon that
point. I should also require him to withdraw his
memorial before Congress prior to your entering into
any contract with him. I do not suspect him or any
one else of any desire or idea of doing what might prejudice
your rights or interests; but I think it better to make
the probability of such a course still less, by keeping the claim
free from any conflict or pretence by any applicant, & the
process itself from the knowledge of any one — for the present.
You had better see Mr McC soon instead of writing

Yours truly

Henry McMurtrie

19. Aug. 1830

H M Morfit

Washington